

Example of letter of support

April 24, 2016

Carlotta M. Donisi
Business Programs Specialist - Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1835 Black Lake Blvd, Suite C
Olympia, WA 98512

Dear Carlotta,

On behalf of the State of Washington it gives me great pleasure to urge USDA to strongly consider a REAP proposal to upgrade the lighting systems at the Gas-N-Sip Supermarket/Gas Station in Springfield, Washington.

This investment will upgrade the store's lighting system to more energy efficient equipment in order to save on electricity costs. Existing T-8 and T-12 fluorescent lights in walk-in coolers, reach-in coolers, and deli cases will be replaced with low-power LED light bars. Use of LED lights in these coolers not only reduces electricity consumption for lighting but also generates less heat and therefore reduces the cooling load of these refrigeration units. Overhead interior and exterior perimeter lighting currently uses 95-Watt and 60-Watt T-12 fluorescent lamps with magnetic ballasts and will be retrofitted with more efficient 32-Watt T-8 fluorescent lamps with electronic ballasts. The planned changes to the lighting system are estimated to save 93,104 kWh per year with a simple payback of less than 4 years (excluding rebates and grants).

The United States can intelligently move toward a more diversified energy supply project by project – improving efficiency and displacing high cost fuels when the opportunities arise. This project is consistent with the recently updated Washington State Energy Strategy that was adopted in 2012 after a 2 year process. It will also be consistent with Pacific County PUD's obligation under the State of Washington's Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires utilities to obtain all cost-effective efficiency and produce 15% of their energy from renewables built after 2000.

This project is consistent with a myriad of state environmental goals:

1) reduce Greenhouse Gas impacts;

- 2) use energy wisely, cleanly and efficiently;
- 3) keep dollars in the community;
- 4) increase distributed energy production;

This is a good example of an investment in struggling community that benefits the business, the environment and the region. The capital investment in the new lighting systems will transform the space, employ a local electrical contractor and keep dollars in the community. This project will assist a local company to remain competitive, while using energy wisely and meeting state environmental, energy and economic development goals. This project is a terrific example of private entities working with government and a public utility to achieve common objectives in the public and private interest.

Please contact me if you need further information.
Sincerely,

**Energy Guy, Senior Energy Policy Specialist
State Energy Office - Innovation and Policy Priorities Division
Washington Department of Commerce**